

Ordinance 2015-23

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AMENDING CHAPTER 3 “POLICE REGULATIONS”, SECTION 3-10 “ABANDONED OR WRECKED VEHICLES”, AND SECTION 3-11 “PARKING OF BOATS, TRAILERS AND REGISTERED VEHICLES” OF THE “REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN”

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds that enforcement of certain regulations within Chapter 3, Sections 10 and 11 of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown” should be enforceable by the Housing Inspector, Construction Official, or the Zoning Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has determined that such a change in the ordinance is advantageous to the residents of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

Section 1. Section 3-10 “Abandoned or Wrecked Vehicle” is hereby amended as follows (underline for additions, strikethroughs for deletions):

Section 3-10

ABANDONED OR WRECKED VEHICLES*

Subsections:

- 3-10.1 Definitions.
- 3-10.2 Abandoning Vehicles Unlawful.
- 3-10.3 Leaving Non-operating Vehicles on Streets Unlawful.
- 3-10.4 Storage on Private or Borough Property Restricted; Exceptions.
- 3-10.5 Impoundment; Redemption.

* **Editor's Note:** For additional regulations on property maintenance, see Chapter XIV.

3-10.1 Definitions.

As used in this section:

“Abandon” shall mean to intentionally and permanently give up, surrender, leave, desert or relinquish all interest or ownership in a vehicle.

“Property” shall mean any real property within the Borough which is not a street or highway.

“Renovated” shall mean restored to good condition; made new or as if new again; repaired.

“Repaired” shall mean restored to former condition or operational soundness.

“Restored” shall mean brought back into a former, original, or normal condition.

“Street” or “highway” shall mean the entire width between the boundary lines of every way maintained, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

“Vehicle” shall mean a machine propelled by other than human power, designed to travel along the ground by the use of wheels, treads, runners or slides and to transport persons or property or pull machinery, including, but not by way of limitation, an automobile, truck, trailer, motorcycle, tractor, buggy and wagon. (1991 Code § 217-1)

3-10.2 Abandoning Vehicles Unlawful.

No person shall abandon a vehicle within the Borough, and no person shall leave a vehicle at any place within the Borough for such time and under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to be abandoned. (1991 Code § 217-2)

3-10.3 Leaving Non-operating Vehicles on Streets Unlawful.

No person shall leave any unregistered, partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked or junked vehicle on a street or highway within the Borough. (1991 Code § 217-3; Ord. No. 2002-04)

3-10.4 Storage on Private or Borough Property Restricted; Exceptions.

a. No person in charge or control of property within the Borough, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee or otherwise, shall allow unregistered, partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked or discarded vehicles to be parked or stored anywhere on private property except on a paved or stoned driveway or an approved extension of a driveway, and such vehicles shall not be permitted to remain on the property longer than forty-eight (48) hours. ~~and~~ Moreover, no person shall leave such vehicles on any property within the Borough for a longer period than forty-eight (48) hours.

b. This section shall not apply to a vehicle in an enclosed building; a vehicle on the premises of a business enterprise operated in a lawful place and manner, when necessary to the operation of the business enterprise; a vehicle that is parked or stored on a paved or stoned driveway or an approved extension of a driveway and which is actively being repaired, renovated or restored, so long as the vehicle is covered with an appropriate durable car cover, during times when such work is not being undertaken; or a vehicle in an appropriate storage place or depository maintained in a lawful place and manner by the Borough. (1991 Code § 217-4; Ord. No. 2002-04)

c. If an unregistered, partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked or discarded vehicle is parked on private or Borough property in any other manner than as permitted pursuant to this Section, then it shall be considered a violation of this Section.

3-10.5 Impoundment; Redemption.

The Chief of Police or any member of the Police Department designated by him is authorized to remove or have removed any vehicle left at any place within the Borough which appears to be present in violation of this section. Such a vehicle shall be impounded until lawfully claimed or disposed of in accordance with applicable statutes. The Chief of Police or any member of the Police Department acting for him shall notify the registered and legal owner, in writing, by personal service or by certified mail, at the last known address of the owner, of the removal of the vehicle, the reason for the removal and the location of the vehicle. The vehicle shall be retained and impounded until the owner or his authorized agent pays the cost of such taking and removal, together with a garage charge of two (\$2.00) dollars for each day that the vehicle is retained and impounded. (1991 Code § 217-5)

3-10.6 Violations and Penalties.

In addition to the penalties set forth in Subsection 3-10.5, a summons may be issued for any violation of the provisions of this Section by any member of the Police Department, or by the Housing Inspector, the Construction Official, or the Zoning Officer. Any person violating any provision of this Section shall, upon conviction, be subject to the fine(s) prescribed in Section 1-5 of the Borough Code, or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 2. Section 3-11 “Parking of Boats, Trailers and Registered Vehicles” is hereby amended as follows (underline for additions, strikethroughs for deletions):

Section 3-11

PARKING OF BOATS, TRAILERS AND REGISTERED VEHICLES

Subsections:

- 3-11.1 Definitions.**
- 3-11.2 Parking in Public Streets Restricted; Repairs.**
- 3-11.3 Storage of Boats, Trailers and Camping Vehicles on Private Property.***
- 3-11.4 Storage of Registered, Operating Vehicles on Private Property**

3-11.1 Definitions.

As used in this section:

Trailer or Camping and recreational vehicle shall mean any boat mounted on a trailer or any vehicle or structure used or intended to be used as a conveyance upon the public streets or highways and duly licensed as such, including self-propelled and non-self-propelled vehicles or structures designed, constructed and reconstructed or added to by means of accessories in such a manner as to permit the occupancy thereof as a dwelling or sleeping place, temporary or permanent, for one (1) or more persons and having no foundations other than wheels, skids, jacks or similar devices so arranged as to be integral with or portable by the trailer or camping and recreational vehicle, including any trailer or camping and recreational vehicle so arranged and installable as not be subject to transportation. (1991 Code § 203-1)

3-11.2 Parking in Public Streets Restricted; Repairs.

a. No person shall park any camping vehicle for any period exceeding two (2) hours on any street in the Borough except for the purpose of repair.

b. If any person desires to repair a camping vehicle while it is parked on any street, he shall obtain a permit therefor from the Police Department. Such permit shall not be issued unless the camping vehicle cannot be removed to a garage, service station or other premises for the purpose of repair and shall be granted on request without fee. It shall be valid for a period of forty-eight (48) hours from the issuance thereof but may, for good cause shown, be renewed for an additional forty-eight (48) hour period or periods as necessity may require. Any camping vehicle undergoing repairs while parked in a street shall not be used by any person as a dwelling or sleeping place during such period of repair. (1991 Code § 203-2)

3-11.3 Storage of Boats, Trailers and Camping Vehicles on Private Property.*

Any owner of a boat, trailer or camping vehicle may park or store his equipment on private residential property in

the Borough subject to the following conditions:

a. If the boat, trailer or camping vehicle is parked or stored outside of a garage or building, it shall be parked or stored to the rear of the front building line of the lot, on a paved or stoned driveway or an approved extension of a driveway, except that a boat, trailer or camping vehicle may be parked anywhere on private residential property for loading or unloading purposes.

b. At no time shall a parked or stored boat or camping vehicle be occupied or used for living, sleeping or housekeeping purposes or for storage of other than equipment used in connection with the vehicle.

c. Only one (1) of each such vehicle shall be permitted to be parked at one (1) time on any one (1) property. (1991 Code § 203-3; Ord. No. 2002-04)

* **Editor's Note:** For additional regulations on property maintenance, see Chapter XIV.

3-11.4 Storage of Registered, Operating Vehicles on Private Property

Registered, operating vehicles shall be parked or stored on a paved or stoned driveway or an approved extension of a driveway. If a vehicle is parked on private property in any other manner, then it shall be considered a violation of this Section. (Ord. No. 2002-04)

3-11.5 Violations and Penalties.

For any violation of the provisions of this Section, a summons may be issued by any member of the Police Department, or by the Housing Inspector, the Construction Official, or the Zoning Officer. Any person violating any provision of this Section shall, upon conviction, be subject to the fine(s) prescribed in Section 1-5 of the Borough Code, or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 3. Severability. If any sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any persons or circumstances shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, or if by legislative action any sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall lose its force and effect, such judgment or action shall not affect, impair or void the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 5. Repealer. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Introduction: September 21, 2015

Re-Introduced: November 16, 2015

Adoption:

ATTEST:

DEBRA L. SOPRONYI
MUNICIPAL CLERK

LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE
MAYOR